

Claims 1-53 are present in the above-captioned application and have been subjected to restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Specifically, the Official Action avers that the following inventions are present in the claims:

Group I, Claims 1-47 and 50-53, drawn to inserting direction method, classified in class 382, subclass 128; and

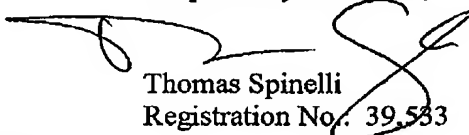
Group II, Claims 48 and 49, drawn to an endoscope inserting direction system, classified in class 600, subclass 117.

It is the Examiner's position that the inventions listed as Groups I and II are distinct from each other.

In response to the Examiner's requirement for restriction, Applicants elect to prosecute the subject matter of Group II, Claims 48 and 49. However, Applicants reserve the right under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter in this application.

In view of the foregoing, an examination on the merits of the elected claims, at an early date, is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Spinelli
Registration No. 39,533

Scully, Scott, Murphy & Presser, P.C.
400 Garden City Plaza, Ste. 300
Garden City, New York 11530
(516) 742-4343
TS:cm/jam